

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending and under consideration. Double brackets have been placed around the first instance of the word "a" in the second line of claim 2, as discussed in a telephone interview of December 18, 2006. Deletion of the "," at the end of the thirteenth line of claim 1, and the "s" at the end of the word "files" in the second line of claim 2 has also been indicated with double brackets.

During the telephone interview of December 18, 2006 the undersigned representative of the Applicants sought, and the Examiner graciously provided, clarification of the remarks on the continuation sheet attached to be Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment mailed December 12, 2006. In particular, the Examiner found and pointed out the above-mentioned instance of the word "a."

In addition, although, as noted in the second full paragraph on the continuation sheet attached to be Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment mailed December 12, 2006, 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(2) provides:

The text of any deleted subject matter must be shown by being placed within double brackets if strike-through cannot be easily perceived.

Whether "strike-through cannot be easily perceived" is eminently subjective, and the first notice that the Applicants received that the particular strike-through of the first instance of the word "a" in the second line of claim 2 was difficult to perceive was during the above-mentioned telephone call to the Examiner.

Finally, the third full paragraph on the continuation sheet attached to be Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment mailed December 12, 2006, asserts:

Additionally, Applicant should show the deletion of five or fewer consecutive characters using double brackets before and after the deleted characters. See 37 CFR 1.121.

37 C.F.R. § 1.121, to the contrary, says only that double brackets placed before and after the deleted characters *may* be used to show the deletion of five or fewer consecutive characters, while the text of any deleted matter *must* be shown by strike-through. In particular, as provided in 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(2):

The text of any deleted matter must be shown by strike-through except that double brackets placed before and after the deleted characters may be used to show deletion of five or fewer consecutive characters.

Serial No. 10/685,493

Since the text of any deleted matter must be shown by strike-through, the Applicants believe that the subject amendment is in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121. If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the courtesy of a telephone call the undersigned representative of the Applicants is earnestly solicited.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

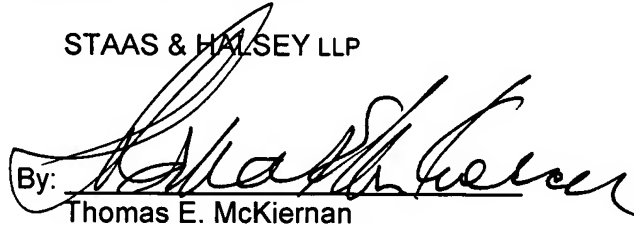
Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date:

10/14/07

By:



Thomas E. McKiernan
Registration No. 37,889

1201 New York Ave, N.W., 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501